

Racing the Sunset: How Athletes Survive, Thrive, or Fail in Life After Sport

Scott Tinley



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A seventh-generation Californian, Scott Tinley led the quintessential Golden State dream. As he grew from beach rat to lifeguard to a recreational administration major, it seemed only natural to him that he would try to parlay the athletic skills gleaned from this idyllic lifestyle into a profession as one of the best triathletes in the world. For twenty years, his skill, tenacity, and devil-may-care attitude guided him along the path. But when age took hold of his legs, and no amount of training would help, his athletic gold rush went bust. Cracks in his psyche began to show, as if beneath it all—like much of California itself—his athletic life had been built on a fault. Always introspective and inquiring, Tinley threw himself headlong into athlete retirement and the larger issues of life transition and change. His new journey, driven by his quest for personal growth and healing, was filled with pain, false starts, and heartrending intimacies. It led him to hundreds of other retired professional athletes who would openly discuss their own triumphs and tragedies. With much discipline, Tinley completed one of the most thorough athlete research projects ever attempted, and befriended such superstars as Bill Walton, Eric Heiden, Greg LeMond, Jerry Sherk, Steve Scott, and Rick Sutcliffe. Along the way he uncovered secrets about himself and the process of change, turmoil, and final acceptance, all shared openly and eloquently in Racing the Sunset. This book will do for athletes of every level what Passages did for an entire generation.

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